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1954

The VEGETABLE SITUATION

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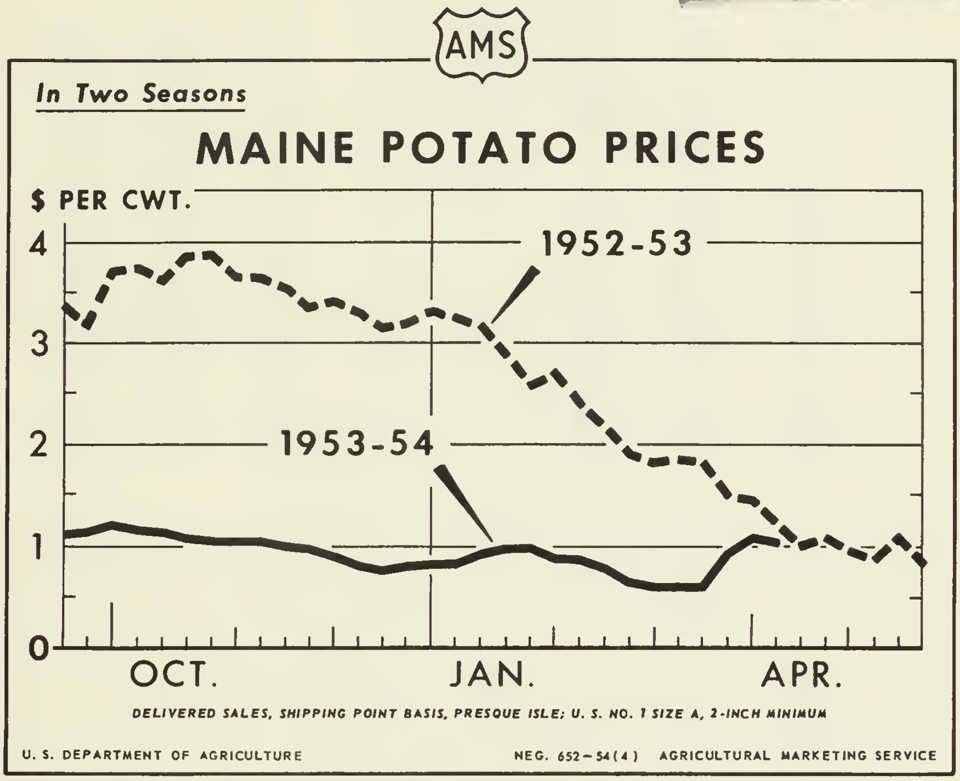

Prices for 1953-crop Maine potatoes were much lower than those for the preceding crop through most of the season, but declined much less after the fall peak. Prices increased in late March and early April, 1954, following announcement of a Section 32 purchase and diversion payment program, and an industry potato promotion campaign. Another factor this year is reduced competition due to a smaller crop in the Early Commercial States.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Table 1.- Vegetables for fresh market: Reported commercial acreage and production, average 1949-1952, annual 1953 and indicated 1954

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage: Average 1949-52 1/	Acreage: 1953	Acreage: Indicated 1954: Acres	Acreage: Indicated 1954: Percent of average	Acreage: Indicated 1954: Percent of 1953	Production: Average 1949-52 1/	Production: 1953	Production: Indicated 1954: Production	Production: Indicated 1954: Percent of average	Production: Indicated 1954: Percent of 1953
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent	1,000 tons 2/	1,000 tons 2/	1,000 tons 2/	Percent	Percent
WINTER 3/	277,520	273,400	273,590	99	100	1,452.8	1,560.1	1,508.5	104	97
Spring: 4/										
Asparagus, early and mid 5/	81,390	80,430	83,740	103	104	99.4	93.4	101.0	---	---
Asparagus, late	48,670	54,770	57,600	118	105	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, lima	6,050	4,700	4,500	74	96	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, snap 6/	45,800	35,500	37,800	83	106	57.4	40.5	47.7	83	118
Beets	1,180	990	1,050	89	106	6.1	5.3	5.5	90	104
Broccoli 5/ 7/	8,520	12,200	11,500	135	94	24.8	35.9	33.8	136	94
Cabbage, early 3/	20,720	21,800	19,800	96	91	125.5	145.3	124.5	99	86
Cabbage, late 3/	11,200	10,350	10,750	96	104	---	---	---	---	---
Cantaloups	29,050	42,200	61,800	213	146	---	---	---	---	---
Carrots	3,270	2,100	2,000	61	95	36.6	18.9	20.0	55	106
Cauliflower 7/	7,590	6,300	6,500	86	103	60.0	55.4	54.1	90	98
Celery	6,220	6,200	7,800	125	126	162.8	165.0	216.0	133	131
Corn, sweet 7/	32,220	30,500	42,700	133	140	91.0	100.6	137.9	152	137
Cucumbers 7/	11,050	11,300	15,400	139	136	38.4	46.1	55.6	145	121
Eggplant	1,350	1,100	1,000	74	91	7.4	6.1	5.2	70	85
Lettuce 7/	48,350	46,850	44,500	92	95	253.6	266.7	252.1	99	95
Onions, early	31,780	46,600	39,500	124	85	80.3	139.8	103.7	129	74
Onions, late	17,660	18,200	14,900	84	82	---	---	---	---	---
Peas, green 7/	9,250	4,800	8,000	86	167	15.5	7.9	12.7	82	161
Peppers, green	7,780	7,900	8,700	112	110	24.9	24.2	27.2	109	112
Shallots	2,000	1,700	2,000	100	118	2.8	2.8	3.0	107	107
Spinach	12,220	10,820	10,700	88	99	38.6	34.2	33 .2	86	97
Tomatoes 7/	53,930	62,900	71,300	132	113	177.7	188.3	233.6	131	124
Watermelons	72,120	101,400	113,800	158	112	---	---	---	---	---
Total spring to date:										
Acreage and production	384,620	389,990	413,990	108	106	1,302.8	1,376.4	1,466.8	113	107
Acreage	569,370	621,610	677,340	119	109	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL SPRING 8/	674,550	716,100	---	---	---	2,263.8	2,492.8	---	---	---
Early summer:										
Cabbage 3/	9,630	9,230	9/ 9,160	95	99	---	---	---	---	---
Onions	5,480	6,120	9/ 4,430	81	72	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons	278,300	314,500	9/ 355,300	128	113	---	---	---	---	---
Late summer:										
Cabbage 3/	22,730	21,950	9/ 22,450	99	102	---	---	---	---	---
Onions	64,390	61,150	9/ 59,750	93	98	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons	17,480	18,750	9/ 20,350	116	109	---	---	---	---	---
Total summer to date 3/:										
Acreage	398,010	431,700	9/ 471,440	118	109	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL SUMMER 3/	919,110	948,350	---	---	---	4,049.5	4,290.5	---	---	---
Early fall:										
Cabbage 3/	50,090	50,230	9/ 47,270	94	94	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL FALL 3/	308,350	299,450	---	---	---	1,981.2	2,059.9	---	---	---
Reported to date for 1954 with comparisons 8/										
Acreage and production	622,140	663,390	687,580	104	104	2,755.6	2,936.5	2975.3	108	101
Acreage	1,294,990	1,376,940	1,469,640	113	107	---	---	---	---	---
Totals for past seasons 8/										
ANNUAL TOTAL	2,179,530	2,237,300	---	---	---	9,747.4	10,403.3	---	---	---

1/ For seasonal groups and annual totals, averages are of the yearly totals, not the sum of the "crop" averages.
2/ Equivalent tons based on approximate net weight of unit used in estimating yield and production.
3/ Includes cabbage used for sauerkraut.
4/ Includes asparagus used for processing.
5/ Total crop for fresh market and processing.
6/ Acreage and production for early and mid-spring only.
7/ Acreage and production for early spring only.
8/ Includes asparagus and cabbage for fresh market and processing
9/ Prospective.

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board April 21, 1954

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SUMMARY

Supplies of most commercially grown vegetables and melons for the fresh market in the second quarter of this year are expected to be moderately larger than a year earlier and considerably larger than average. Prices for these crops in general probably will average lower than a year earlier. Current stocks of commercially canned and frozen vegetables likewise are generally larger than a year earlier but prices have remained steady since minor reductions were made after the new packs were in last summer and fall. Large supplies of 1953-crop potatoes will be available at relatively low prices until the end of the old-crop season. Considerable quantities of old-crop potatoes are being moved under the "Section 32" purchase and diversion payments program announced March 24. New-crop potatoes will not be as plentiful as a year earlier.

Prospects for spring vegetable production through early April this year point to substantial tonnage increases over last year for green peppers, snap beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, celery, sweetcorn and green peas. Decreases of 5 percent or more are shown for broccoli, cabbage, eggplant, lettuce and onions.

Stocks of major canned vegetables are generally larger than a year earlier except for asparagus, pumpkin and squash, spinach, tomatoes and all tomato products except juice.

Total stocks of frozen vegetables in commercial cold storage April 1, 1954 were record for the date, but have been moving out faster than usual.

Somewhat smaller acreages for processing this year compared to last are tentatively indicated for cabbage (contract acreage only), sweetcorn, green peas, and for spinach harvested in the first half of this year. Processors plan a slightly larger total snap bean acreage this year.

Prices for potatoes advanced in late March and early April, following announcement of the Section 32 purchase and diversion payment program, a sales promotion campaign by the industry, and the reduction in the early potato crop from a year earlier. Prices for new-crop potatoes probably will decline somewhat less than seasonally this spring.

Little change in price is expected for 1953-crop sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, or dry field peas until the size of the 1954 crops becomes apparent. Planting intentions point to about the same total acreage this year as last for sweetpotatoes, but considerably larger acreages in dry beans and peas.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

Asparagus

Fresh: Heavy shipments of asparagus to fresh market from California came later than usual this year due to cool weather in February and March. Prices dropped abruptly in early April as shipments increased.

The California crop is expected to total about 9 percent more than last years' crop, but about the same as the average for 1949-52. Cool weather also delayed development in Washington and Oregon. The crop in these mid-spring harvest States is forcast at 6 percent more than last year and 12 percent above average. Acreage in late spring areas of Northeastern States is expected to be about 5 percent more than last year and 18 percent more than average. Because of larger crops and the delayed movement this season, fresh market prices for asparagus this spring probably will average lower than a year earlier.

Processed: The larger crops and later movements of asparagus to fresh markets in the early and late spring States probably will leave increased supplies this year for commercial canners and freezers. Stocks of canned asparagus held by canners and distributors are considerably smaller than a year earlier. Frozen asparagus holdings are much larger than a year earlier and are second only to those in the spring of 1947, but have been declining at about the usual seasonal rate.

Snap Beans:

Fresh: Withethe mid-spring snap bean crop estimated to be one-third larger than last year's below average crop, prices received by farmers are expected to average well below the comparatively high prices of a year earlier.

Processed: The national acreage in snap beans for commercial processing this year is expected to be about 4 percent larger than last year, based on processors' intentions in late March and early April. Stocks of canned snap beans in the hands of canners and wholesale distributors are substantially larger than the light holdings of a year earlier. Stocks of frozen snap beans in storage are a record for the date, though they have been declining more than seasonally since the peak in holdings at the end of last October. F.O.B. prices for both canned and frozen snap beans appeared steady in March.

Broccoli

Fresh: Early spring production in California is estimated to be 6 percent less than last year, but 36 percent above average. Commercial freezers have taken a smaller volume this season, leaving a much larger tonnage for fresh market outlets. Prices are considerably below a year earlier.

Processed: Two percent more frozen broccoli was in storage this April 1 than in March 1, and 13 percent more than April 1, 1953.

Cabbage

Fresh: F.O.B. prices for new cabbage declined in early April, as supplies increased, but rose again in mid-April. Prices for old cabbage, on the other hand, improved somewhat as storage stocks neared exhaustion.

The early spring crop is forecast about equal to average but 14 percent smaller than last year. Increases over last year are forecast for South Carolina and South Georgia, and decreases for Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Aggregate late-spring acreage is estimated to be 4 percent larger than last year but 4 percent smaller than the 1949-52 average.

Prospective acreage of cabbage for early summer harvest is slightly below last year while that for late summer harvest is slightly above. Acreage in both areas is a little below average. Prospective acreage of cabbage for early fall harvest is 6 percent below 1953 acreage, with increases in the Western States more than offsetting decreases in most other States.

Processing: Processors' intentions indicate 13 percent less contract acres of cabbage for kraut this year than last. Stocks of kraut this March 1 were much larger than a year earlier but smaller than on March 1, 1951.

Cantaloups

A record acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest was indicated as of April 1 this year, 46 percent more than last year and 113 percent larger than the 1949-52 average. Since that report, however, a series of heavy rains in the lower valley of Texas has destroyed some acreage of late spring cantaloups and the outturn of additional acreage is in doubt. Peak movement from Texas is expected in late May and early June. Indications are that heavy movement from other States in the spring group also will occur in early June. If shipments tend to bunch up, prices are apt to break sharply in late spring. Mexican cantaloups were available in New York City in late March and early April, at prices a little below early April last year.

Cauliflower

Fresh: Shipments to fresh market have been substantially above a year earlier because of the lighter demand for freezing this year. The spring harvest in California is expected to total 2 percent less than last year and 10 percent below average. Fresh movements for the spring market reached its peak in March, and wholesale prices in New York and Chicago early in the month were still somewhat below a year earlier. Movement is expected to decline the rest of the spring quarter.

Processed: Although stocks of frozen cauliflower held in commercial cold-storage are still relatively large, the net out-movement has been at a faster rate thus far this year than last.

Celery

The Florida and California spring crop of celery is expected to set a new record, 31 percent larger than the 1953 crop and 33 percent above average, as the result of increased acreages and yields. Prices F.O.B for celery in late March and early April generally were declining and were generally substantially below a year earlier.

Sweet Corn

Fresh: Heavy rains in the lower valley of Texas have eliminated about 2,000 acres of early spring sweet corn, since the report for April 1 indicated a crop of 37 percent larger than last year's and 52 percent more than average. However, supplies remain much above last year, and are reflected by prices in the first half of April this year, which were declining, and lower than a year earlier.

Processed: Latest available data on commercially canned corn indicates stocks held by canners are considerably larger than a year earlier. This much more than offsets the substantially lower stocks in the hands of wholesale distributors. Stocks of frozen corn in cold storage, though declining seasonally, are far larger than on the same date for any prior year, reflecting the record 1953 pack. The 1954 acreage planted for processing will be about 7 percent smaller than in 1953, if processors' intentions materialize. Slight to very sharp reductions in acreage are indicated for all States separately reported except Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Virginia. Reductions in prices paid growers usually accompany reductions in acreage contracted for processing.

Carrots

Fresh: Substantially less winter-crop carrots are expected to be moving in May than a year earler. Further reduction in supplies has occurred since April 1 due to heavy rains and flooding in south Texas. The spring crop in Arizona is forecast at 6 percent more than last year, though 45 percent below average. Prices for carrots in early April were generally above a year ago. The average for the spring quarter is expected to be well above a year earlier.

Processed: Stocks of canned carrots held by wholesale distributors are moderately lower than a year earlier, but increased canners' stocks more than offset this difference.

Cucumbers

Fresh: Prices for cucumbers broke rapidly in late March and early April as movement from the large early spring crop increased, but remained well above a year earlier. Production of early spring cucumbers is expected to total 21 percent more than last year and 45 percent more than average. Because of the large increase in production, prices are expected to average below early spring of 1953.

Pickles: Processors' planting intentions will be announced April 22, Department Guides suggest a cucumber acreage about 5 percent smaller than that planted for this purpose last year.

Onions

Prices for onions in late March and early April were still below levels a year earlier. The early spring crop as of April 1 was estimated to be 26 percent less than the 5.6 million sacks available for harvest last year (of which 1.2 million sacks were not harvested because of market conditions). The 1954 early spring crop is about 29 percent larger than the 4-year average. Since that report, heavy rains have caused severe damage to the limited quantity of onions remaining to be harvested in the Lower Valley and in the Raymondville section.

Late spring onion acreage is 18 percent less than the 1953 acreage for harvest and 16 percent below average. The acreage decline is especially significant in the States with the higher average yields. Weather has been unfavorable to the crop in Georgia and parts of Texas.

The prospective late-summer onion acreage in Washington has increased sharply over last year because of many onion growers coming in to the Quincy area of the Columbia Basin from Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho, and Utah. However, the prospective acreage for all late-summer harvest States combined is about 2 percent less than acreage for harvest last year and 7 percent under average.

Green Peas

Fresh: Prices for fresh peas this spring will average substantially lower than a year earlier if 60 percent increase indicated for early spring crop materializes. Sharp increases in acreage in San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties of California account for most of the rise expected in production.

Processed: Considerably larger stocks of canned peas held by canners more than offset somewhat reduced stocks held by wholesale distributors. Cold storage holdings of frozen peas April 1 this year were still record high for the date, though much reduced from the peak last September. The 1953 pack was a record.

Acre of green peas for processing this year may be only 2 percent less than that planted last year, according to processors' intentions as of early March. Intended acreage is nearly as large as last year for freezing but about 2 percent less for canning and other processing.

Green Peppers

The spring crop in Florida is expected to be 12 percent larger than in 1953 and 9 percent above average. The timing of movement and prices received will vary widely as usual because of the geographical and climatic differences among sections in Florida. Prices for the entire spring crop probably will average below those for 1953.

Spinach

Fresh: The U. S. average of prices received by farmers for spinach normally are lowest for the year in April, May and October. The seasonal low this year may be a little later than usual, as the spring crop was delayed by cool weather in several States. The entire spring crop is estimated to be 3 percent smaller than in 1953 and 14 percent below the 1949-52 average.

Wholesale prices for spinach in New York City were slightly lower in late March and early April than a year earlier. Texas spinach was still declining but Virginia spinach showed a slight recovery.

Processing: Stocks of canned spinach are moderately lighter than a year earlier. Cold-storage holdings of frozen spinach are smaller than the large stocks a year earlier. Production of spinach for canning and freezing in winter and early spring harvest areas is indicated to be 11 percent smaller than in 1953 and 2 percent less than the 1943-52 average for the 2 areas. A lighter canned and frozen pack seems likely this year and wholesale prices are expected to remain fairly steady near current levels.

Tomatoes

Fresh: Prices received by farmers for early spring tomatoes are expected to average considerably lower than a year earlier. As of April 1, the early spring crop was expected to be a record, about one-fourth larger than the 1953 crop and 31 percent above the 1949-52 average. Recent heavy rains in south Texas have caused the loss of about 4,000 acres of early spring tomatoes. However the tomato acreage loss and immediate damage to mature fruit is expected to be partially or completely offset by the improved production prospects on the late acreage of this crop, which was badly in need of moisture. F.O.B. and terminal market prices for tomatoes declined rapidly in late March and early April, and were substantially below those of a year earlier.

Processed: While data are not strictly comparable, estimates indicate that combined canner and wholesale distributor stocks of canned tomatoes, and most tomato products except juice are smaller than those of a year earlier. Stocks of canned tomato juice are substantially larger.

The Production Guides issued by the Department suggested the same acreage of tomatoes in 1954 as in 1953. Such an acreage, with average yields would produce a moderately smaller crop than in 1953, though slightly larger than average for 1942-51.

F.O.B. cannery prices for tomato juice declined slightly in late February in some areas, but prices for canned tomatoes and other tomato products held generally steady. Retail prices of canned tomatoes and tomato catsup in leading cities(BLS) were slightly lower in January and February this year than a year earlier.

Watermelons

Prospective acreage of watermelons this year is up considerably over last in each of the three areas: late spring, early summer and late summer. The 113,800 acres estimated for late-spring harvest this year is a new record, 12 percent over last year and 58 percent above average.

Growers' intentions to plant watermelons for early summer harvest indicate a probable 13 percent increase in acreage over last year and 28 percent more than average. About 2/3 of the annual production of watermelons is grown in the early summer harvest area. In the late summer harvest areas, growers' planting intentions point to an acreage 9 percent above acreage for harvest last year and 16 percent more than average.

Probabilities are that the watermelon crops in these 3 areas will be significantly larger this year than last, and that prices will average lower.

POTATOES

Depressed Market Partially Revived

Prices received by farmers for potatoes which had been declining generally since last fall, turned upward in late March and early April. Several factors probably were responsible for this improvement. On March 24, it was announced that the U. S. D. A. was joining with industry in a potato promotion program scheduled April 1 to 10 and that some Section 32 assistance would be given for the remainder of the 1953-crop marketing season. Heavy movements of potatoes to starch factories in Maine and Idaho and to livestock feeding in several States already had removed substantial quantities of potatoes. Acreage of early commercial 1954-crop potatoes were estimated to be substantially smaller than in 1953 and generally below average. The outlook is for 23 percent less acreage in the early States, 12 percent less in the 7 Intermediate States and 8 percent less acreage in the 29 Late States, However, as pointed out in the Secretary's warning of April 2, "growers should not be misled into easing up on adjustment plans".

The total acreage shown in the intentions-to-plant report for these States is not far above the recommendation. Some States show a reduction from the "guide" levels, but this is more than offset by proposed increases in major States of higher per acre yield. If yields, by States, equaled the 1950-53 averages on the "intentions" acreage, late potato production would be about 281 million bushels -- nearly 9 million bushels above the guide recommendation and only about 3 percent smaller than the 1953 crop of 290 million bushels.

Some of the States where the March 1 intentions-to-plant report showed substantial increases over the guide recommendations were: Maine, up 18.6 thousand acres; Idaho, up 18.4 thousand acres; North Dakota, up 10.6 thousand acres; Long Island (New York), up 3.9 thousand acres; and Oregon, up 3 thousand acres.

Prices for old-crop potatoes rose in late March and early April but remained lower than a year earlier.

Improvement Expected to Hold: Prices for old-crop potatoes probably will hold near the present level. Prices for new potatoes probably will decline less than seasonally this spring.

Sweetpotatoes

Prices Strengthen: Prices received for sweetpotatoes strengthened substantially in late March and early April. For the remainder of the crop marketing season, prices probably will remain at about their recent level, but still well below the high prices of a year earlier.

Acreage Maintained: March intentions to plant indicate about the same U. S. acreage this year as in 1953. Considerable increases are indicated for New Jersey, Tennessee, Florida, Texas and California. Decreases are indicated for Louisiana, the Carolinas and Georgia.

Dry Edible Beans and Peas

Farmers Plan Larger Acreage: The March report of farmers intentions to plant indicate about a 14 percent increase in U. S. acreages planted to dry beans compared with 1953, and nearly a 15 percent increase for dry peas. Much of the increase is in the Northwestern States, (Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington), where yields average higher than in other States.

Larger Production Probable: If the acreage indicated by farmers' March plans for beans and peas are planted, and if yields by States are in line with the 1951-53 averages, the 1954 crops of both dry beans and dry peas would be moderately larger for beans and peas than in 1953. Such a development would pose a problem for both.

Support for Dry Beans: There is no support program for dry peas. Support for 1954 crop dry beans will be available at a slightly lower level than that for the 1953 crop. Support for 1954 crop beans has been announced at 80 percent of the February 15, 1954 parity price for all dry edible beans. Support will again vary by classes, with a national average of about $7.24 per hundred pounds. Support for the 1953 crop ranged by classes from $6.45 to $11.80 per hundred pounds, based on a national average of $7.79 equivalent to about 87 percent of the December 15, 1952 parity price.

Barring Crop Disaster, No Price Improvement: If crop prospects remain favorable, no general improvement in prices for dry beans and peas is expected this spring and early summer.

Table 2. - Truck crops, potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Unloads at 17 markets, indicated periods in 1954, with comparisons 1/
(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

Commodity	1953 January: Rail, boat and air	1953 January: Truck	1953 January: Imports	1953 January: Total	1953-54 November: Rail, boat and air	November: Truck	November: Imports	November: Total	December: Rail, boat and air	December: Truck	December: Imports	December: Total	January: Rail, boat and air	January: Truck	January: Imports	January: Total
Asparagus	1	---	---	1	---	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, lima, snap and fava	85	395	35	515	245	918	4	1,167	397	464	19	880	223	432	28	683
Beets	37	61	---	98	---	163	---	163	9	74	---	83	17	54	---	71
Broccoli	267	182	---	449	160	184	---	344	305	144	---	449	296	107	---	403
Brussels sprouts	29	33	---	62	34	90	---	124	53	75	---	128	68	38	---	106
Cabbage	809	1,466	16	2,291	67	1,603	---	1,670	266	1,569	---	1,835	794	1,355	---	2,151
Cantaloups and other melons 2/	1	---	62	63	216	114	44	374	17	4	45	66	---	---	48	48
Carrots	1,127	538	---	1,665	738	626	3	1,367	875	572	1	1,448	935	587	1	1,523
Cauliflower	369	600	---	969	85	1,332	---	1,417	293	862	---	1,155	418	426	---	844
Celery	1,557	1,213	---	2,770	1,269	1,253	---	2,522	1,640	1,182	---	2,822	1,320	1,214	---	2,534
Corn	3	22	---	25	138	290	---	428	118	88	---	206	56	92	---	148
Cucumbers	48	232	38	318	73	678	---	751	231	462	4	697	33	271	149	453
Escarole and endive	184	172	---	356	64	289	---	353	149	175	---	324	127	169	---	296
Lettuce and romaine	2,705	1,686	---	4,391	2,494	1,894	---	4,388	2,724	1,435	---	4,159	2,123	1,424	---	3,547
Onions, dry	971	776	11	1,758	655	1,349	---	2,004	627	1,153	2	1,782	785	1,159	3	1,947
Onions, green	61	202	4	267	26	198	---	224	65	191	5	261	58	182	---	240
Peas, green	7	21	53	81	67	16	4	87	66	37	7	110	13	21	28	62
Peppers	91	276	219	586	317	464	11	792	353	191	58	602	104	180	145	429
Spinach	266	248	---	514	20	364	---	384	148	287	---	435	204	230	---	434
Other cooking greens	120	829	---	949	11	592	---	603	70	617	---	687	95	636	---	731
Squash	15	402	6	423	5	611	4	620	7	392	3	402	12	340	5	357
Tomatoes	853	721	842	2,416	1,470	1,367	23	2,860	870	1,484	265	2,619	728	973	592	2,293
Turnips and rutabagas	17	267	214	498	396	927	260	1,583	8	199	217	424	61	233	201	495
Watermelons	---	---	2	2	---	2	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	14	8	22
Other vegetables (including mixed)	1,339	1,222	75	2,636	525	1,128	103	1,756	1,158	840	107	2,105	1,299	792	69	2,160
Total above	10,962	11,564	1,577	24,103	9,075	16,453	456	25,984	10,449	12,497	733	23,679	9,769	10,929	1,279	21,977
Potatoes	6,760	2,338	85	9,183	5,369	3,460	45	8,874	5,352	2,890	72	8,314	6,210	2,954	53	9,217
Sweetpotatoes	72	748	7	827	150	1,634	---	1,784	123	1,309	---	1,432	89	903	---	992
GRAND TOTAL	17,794	14,650	1,669	34,113	14,594	21,547	501	36,642	15,924	16,696	805	33,425	16,068	14,786	1,332	32,186

1/ Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Oakland (California), Portland (Oregon), Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D. C.

2/ Except watermelons.

Table 3- Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings 1954 with comparisons

Crop	Planted acreage: Average 1943-52	Planted acreage: 1953	Planted acreage: Intended 1954	1954 as a percentage of: Average 1943-52	1954 as a percentage of: 1953
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Asparagus	79,840	89,240	---	---	---
Beans, green, lima	89,020	113,240	---	---	---
Beans, snap	134,000	146,390	151,860	113.3	103.7
Beets	17,580	17,050	---	---	---
Cabbage for kraut:					
Contract	10,200	12,000	10,410	102.1	86.8
Open market	8,090	5,450	---	---	---
Corn, sweet	503,130	528,710	492,050	97.8	93.1
Cucumbers for pickles	133,730	162,290	---	---	---
Peas, green	462,890	464,250	456,350	98.6	98.3
Pimientos	15,950	26,000	---	---	---
Spinach:					
Winter & early spring	16,330	11,900	12,100	74.1	101.7
Late spring & fall	30,290	19,140	---	---	---
Tomatoes	465,600	298,200	---	---	---
Total	1,126,550	1,163,250	1,122,770	99.7	96.5

1/ Crops for which prospective 1954 planted acreage has been estimated.

Table 4- Vegetables, frozen: Cold storage holdings, March 31, 1954 with comparisons

Commodity	March average 1949-53	1953: March 31	1954: January 31	1954: February 28	1954: March 31 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	5,131	5,908	13,518	11,413	9,047
Beans, lima	47,684	55,767	85,362	72,911	64,050
Beans, snap	27,031	33,770	59,083	50,242	41,467
Broccoli	25,419	44,175	48,886	48,872	50,034
Brussels sprouts	10,481	11,378	25,065	23,200	22,388
Cauliflower	10,396	17,389	22,646	19,997	21,025
Corn, sweet	20,799	21,430	70,556	62,728	53,613
Peas, green	69,221	90,226	132,247	111,925	92,494
Pumpkin and squash	6,854	11,509	11,155	10,475	8,521
Spinach	22,477	46,[illegible]5	39,781	33,551	32,692
Other vegetables	62,206	87,[illegible]2	121,902	117,267	111,610
Total	307,699	419,899	630,201	562,581	506,941

1/ Preliminary.

Table 5 .- Canned vegetables: United States commercial packs 1952 and 1953 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks indicated periods in 1954 with comparisons

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
			Canner			Wholesale distributor 1/		
	1952	1953	Date	1953	1954	Date	1953	1954
	1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's
ajor commodities								
eans, snap	16,346	22,611	Apr. 1	1,900	4,043	Jan. 1	2,912	3,220
orn, sweet	32,329	30,982	"	8,921	11,803	"	4,436	3,801
eas, green	26,509	28,037	"	5,836	7,421	"	4,359	3,565
omatoes	27,981	22,334	"	9,887	8,416	"	5,183	3,717
omato juice 2/	35,807	37,754	"	15,544	19,722	"	3,804	3,447
Total	138,972	141,718	"	42,088	51,405	"	20,694	17,750
inor commodities								
sparagus	4,354	4,018	Mar. 1	884	345	"	694	615
eans, lima	2,316	3,085	Feb. 1	1,130	1,486	"	776	662
eats	6,693	8,598	Mar. 1	3,197	4,182	"	1,163	1,123
arrots	2,775	2,747	"	1,149	1,638	"	523	462
ickles	3/22,500	3/22,600		---	---		---	---
umpkin and squash	5,408	2,983	Apr. 1	1,762	4/1,765	"	1,032	668
auerkraut	3/9,580	3/11,450	Mar. 1	5/3,235	5/4,872	"	900	882
otatoes	2,575	N.A.		---	---		---	---
weetpotatoes	4,993	N.A.		---	---		---	---
pinach	6,114	N.A.	Mar. 1	6/863	6/689	"	889	785
ther greens	2,867	N.A.		---	---		---	---
omato products:								
Catsup, chili sauce	15,271	14,970	Apr. 1	8,352	4/7,932	"	1,566	1,343
Paste	6/8,366	6/6,454	Feb. 1	N.A.	6/3,331		---	---
Pulp and puree	4,684	3,643	"	N.A.	6/1,423	"	1,070	883
Sauce	6/8,446	6/5,012	"	N.A.	6/2,993	"	580	722
egetables, mixed	3,226	N.A.		---	---		---	---
Total, comparable minor items	90,393	85,560	---	20,572	22,909	"	9,193	8,145
rand total, comparable items	229,365	227,278	---	62,660	74,314	"	29,887	25,895

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by S&HR Branch of AMS. 2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent omato juice. 3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an verall conversion factor (pickles 68 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton resh). 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24/2's by using 4 cases to the barrel. 6/ California only. Converted by S&HR Branch of AMS from ata supplied in actual cases by the Canners League of California.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise oted. Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, ureau of the Census.

Table 6- Potatoes: Prospective plantings for 1954 season, with comparisons

Group of States	Planted acreage Average 1943-1952	1953	Indicated 1954 1/	1954 as percentage of 1953
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Early				
13 States	407.7	309.3	237.7	77
Intermediate				
7 States	192.7	108.3	95.7	88
Late, States				
9 Eastern	510.4	371.1	340.6	92
9 Central	622.4	364.0	319.0	88
11 Western	451.2	379.4	370.8	98
Total late States	1,584.0	1,114.5	1,030.4	92
36 Late and Intermediate	1,776.7	1,222.8	1,126.1	92
Total United States	2,184.3	1,532.1	1,363.8	89

1/ Indications as of March 1, 1954

2/ Assuming 1950-53 average yields by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 347 million bushels in 1954, compared to 373.7 million bushels produced in 1953.

Table 7- Potatoes, commercial, early; Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1943-52, annual 1953 and indicated 1954 1/

Seasonal group	Acreage Average 1943-52	Acreage 1953	Acreage Indicated 1954	Yield per acre Average 1943-52	Yield per acre 1953	Yield per acre Indicated 1954	Production Average 1943-52	Production 1953	Production Indicated 1954
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Winter	10,990	15,700	12,100	189	256	250	2,042	4,021	3,023
Early spring	25,390	26,700	22,100	152	233	244	3,667	6,228	5,382
Late spring	163,920	165,400	116,700	250	286	---	39,683	47,333	---
Summer	105,090	68,800	2/56,400	205	215	---	21,040	14,805	---
Total	305,400	276,600	207,300	225	262	---	66,432	72,387	---

1/ This acreage and production is later included in the reports of total potatoes.

2/ Prospective.

Table 8- Sweetpotatoes: Prospective plantings for 1954 season, with comparisons

Group of States	Planted acreage: Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954 1/	1954 as percentage of 1953
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Central Atlantic 2/	46.3	40.4	42.4	105
Lower Atlantic 3/	181.5	111.0	104.0	94
South Atlantic 4/	307.1	188.4	192.7	102
North Central 5/..........	11.4	5.3	5.3	100
California	11.0	11.0	13.0	118
Total United States	555.5	356.1	6/ 357.4	100.4

1/ Indications as of March 1, 1954.
2/ New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.
3/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.
4/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.
5/ Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas.
6/ Assuming 1948-52 average yield by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 34 million bushels approximately the same as in 1953.

Table 9- Peas, dry, field: Prospective plantings for 1954 season, with comparisons 1/

State	Planted acreage: Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954 2/	1954 as percentage of 1953
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Minnesota	4	5	5	100
North Dakota	10	6	6	100
Montana	21	6	7	117
Idaho	133	93	110	118
Wyoming	3	6	6	100
Colorado	25	12	12	100
Washington	230	132	158	120
Oregon	27	14	11	79
California	3/ 16	6	6	100
Total United States	469	280	4/ 321	115

1/ In principal commercial producing States.
2/ Indications as of March 1, 1954. 3/ Short-time average.
4/ Assuming 1948-52 average yields per planted acre by States, production from this prospective acreage would approximate 3.6 million 100-pound bags (uncleaned basis) in 1954, nearly a tenth more than in 1953.

Table 10.- Beans, dry, edible: Prospective plantings for 1954 season, with comparisons 1/

Group of States	Planted acreage: Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954 2/	1954 as percentage of 1953
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Maine, New York, Michigan	663	528	576	109
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho Wyoming, Washington	33	317	364	115
Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah	503	309	394	128
California	340	283	306	108
Total United States	1,839	1,437	3/1,640	114

1/ Includes beans grown for seed. 2/ Indications as of March 1, 1954. 3/ Assuming 1948-52 average yields per planted acre, by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 18.7 million 100-pound bags (uncleaned basis) in 1954 compared to 18.1 million bags produced in 1953.

Table 11- Average prices received by farmers, United States, for potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, dry field peas, and fresh vegetables, March 15, 1954, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	1953 Feb. 15	1953 Mar. 15	1954 Jan. 15	1954 Feb. 15	1954 Mar. 15
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Field Crops						
Potatoes	Bushel	1.59	1.42	.691	.653	.532
Sweetpotatoes	Bushel	3.84	4.01	2.53	2.58	2.52
Beans, dry, edible	Cwt.	8.61	8.99	8.12	8.00	8.02
Peas, dry, field	Cwt.	6.14	6.14	5.40	4.64	4.37
		Average first half of month: Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Fresh Vegetables						
Asparagus	Crate	8.70	6.35	---	---	6.20
Beans, lima	Bushel	4.60	3.50	4.20	4.25	4.05
Beans, snap	Bushel	3.50	3.00	3.45	2.75	3.05
Beets	Bushel	.60	.60	1.00	.90	.85
Broccoli	Crate	3.10	4.05	3.15	2.75	3.10
Cabbage	Ton	19.60	31.10	19.60	20.80	34.90
Carrots	Bushel	1.70	1.30	1.50	1.35	1.25
Cauliflower	Crate	1.05	1.20	1.30	1.15	1.05
Celery	Crate	1.65	1.50	2.00	2.20	2.05
Corn, sweet	5doz ears	3.40	2.75	3.50	2.55	2.25
Cucumbers	Bushel	5.65	4.25	4.75	5.50	7.50
Eggplant	Bushel	2.75	2.25	2.00	2.65	1.85
Lettuce	Crate	2.65	3.10	4.90	2.20	2.75
Onions	Sack	3.10	3.20	.60	.48	.45
Peas, green	Bushel	2.50	2.85	2.75	2.50	2.35
Peppers, green	Bushel	2.10	2.85	6.00	3.35	2.00
Spinach	Bushel	1.35	1.20	1.60	1.80	1.45
Tomatoes	Bushel	5.70	6.05	5.00	5.40	5.90

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